

Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
Division of Juvenile Correctional Services: Training School

Policy: 1200.1207

Effective Date: August 16, 2010

Version: 1

Each resident detained or committed to the Rhode Island Training School receives humane and dignified treatment at all times, with full respect for his/her personal dignity and right to privacy consistent with his or her treatment plan. The Division provides care, and treatment programs support optimum rehabilitation of residents. Corporal punishment and/or the use of excessive or inappropriate levels of force are strictly prohibited in all circumstances.

Related Procedure

[Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment](#)

Related Policy

[Use of Restraint at the RI Training School](#)

Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment

Procedure from Policy 1200.1207: Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment

- A. Staff must avoid unnecessary physical contact with residents.
- B. No staff may use corporal punishment with any resident under any circumstance.
 - 1. Corporal punishment is the intentional infliction of physical pain as a method of changing behavior.
 - 2. Corporal punishment may include but is not limited to hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, pinching, shaking, use of objects or painful body postures.
- C. Staff utilize restraints in conformance with DCYF Policy 1200.0832, Use of Restraint at the RI Training School.
- D. Physical force is used only when staff or resident is in imminent risk of serious bodily harm and no other option is available.
 - 1. To avoid the use of physical force, staff employ techniques demonstrated in Department training, including but not limited to verbal counseling or warning of the resident, putting physical distance between staff and resident and/or calling for assistance.
 - 2. If no other option is available, staff utilize a level of force which is less than or equal to that displayed by the resident.
 - 3. Staff desist from use of force as soon as the resident no longer presents the imminent threat of serious bodily harm.
 - 4. Residents involved in an incident receive immediate physical examination and treatment.
- E. Employees utilizing physical force must report such incidents in an Incident Physical Restraint Report-Resident within the shift on which the incident occurs.
- F. Employees observing or aware of the use of corporal punishment must report such incidents immediately to their supervisor, the Master Control Center or the Administrator and the Child Protective Services (CPS) Child Abuse and/or Neglect Hotline in conformance with DCYF Policy 500.0060, Processing and Notifications for an Alleged Institutional Abuse/Neglect Case.
- G. Paragraphs A – F are consistent with American Correctional Association Standards 3-JDF-3A-30 and 3-JTS-3A-31.